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October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Many of us have concerns for family and friends impacted by breast cancer. This month we must take those concerns and turn the emotion into action.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in women in California and the United States as a whole. It is the second most common cause of cancer death. The California Cancer Registry estimates that each year, more than 25,000 California women develop breast cancer and over 4,000 die as a result. California represents a large portion of the 192,370 new cases of breast cancer that have been diagnosed in 2009 alone.

This disease is not gender specific; it will develop in approximately almost 2,000 men this year as well. Early detection and treatment for both sexes has resulted in 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

We must continue to encourage all women and men to undergo mammography screening, as it is the most effective test to determine the presence of breast cancer. To do so, I have joined with my colleagues to co-sponsor the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

This bill will enhance efforts to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women and men, as well as to enhance campaigns that will further educate the community on the risk factors of breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues to recognize the importance of continuing efforts to enhance awareness and preventative actions.